

21 C.J.S. Courts § 6

Corpus Juris Secundum | May 2023 Update

Courts

M. Elaine Buccieri, J.D.; James Buchwalter, J.D.; Amy G. Gore, J.D., of the staff of the National Legal Research Group, Inc; and Lonnie E. Griffith, Jr., J.D.

I. In General

B. General Classification of Courts

§ 6. Courts of general jurisdiction

[Topic Summary](#) | [References](#) | [Correlation Table](#)

West's Key Number Digest

West's Key Number Digest, [Courts](#)  26(1), 117.5, 118, 123 to 158.1

Courts of general jurisdiction are those vested with expansive authority to resolve controversies before them and competent to decide their own jurisdiction of a particular nature.

Most state courts are courts of general jurisdiction,¹ vested with expansive authority to resolve myriad controversies brought before them.²

Courts of general jurisdiction are courts which take cognizance of all causes of a particular nature,³ as so designated by state law,⁴ such as general law courts,⁵ or courts with general original subject matter jurisdiction over all matters, civil and criminal,⁶ but even courts of general jurisdiction may be subject to exceptions for classes of cases and controversies carved out specifically and placed in another court.⁷ Courts of general jurisdiction have the power to determine their own jurisdiction and whether to exercise it within the scope of their subject matter jurisdiction.⁸

Westlaw. © 2023 Thomson Reuters. No Claim to Orig. U.S. Govt. Works.

Footnotes

¹ U.S.—*Nowlin v. U.S.*, 81 F. Supp. 3d 514 (N.D. Miss. 2015).

N.J.—*Thompson v. City of Atlantic City*, 190 N.J. 359, 921 A.2d 427 (2007).

² N.J.—*Thompson v. City of Atlantic City*, 190 N.J. 359, 921 A.2d 427 (2007).

- 3 Conn.—*Geremia v. Geremia*, 159 Conn. App. 751, 125 A.3d 549 (2015).
- Minn.—*Anderson v. County of Lyon*, 784 N.W.2d 77 (Minn. Ct. App. 2010).
- N.Y.—*Molinar v. New York State Div. of Parole*, 119 A.D.3d 1214, 991 N.Y.S.2d 487 (3d Dep't 2014).
- Utah—*State v. Smith*, 2014 UT 33, 344 P.3d 573 (Utah 2014).
- 4 Conn.—*Geremia v. Geremia*, 159 Conn. App. 751, 125 A.3d 549 (2015).
- S.D.—*March v. Thursby*, 2011 SD 73, 806 N.W.2d 239 (S.D. 2011).
- Wash.—*In re Marriage of McDermott*, 175 Wash. App. 467, 307 P.3d 717 (Div. 1 2013).
- Wyo.—*Christiansen v. Christiansen*, 2011 WY 90, 253 P.3d 153, 76 A.L.R.6th 703 (Wyo. 2011).
- 5 Miss.—*RAS Family Partners, LP v. Onnam Biloxi, LLC*, 968 So. 2d 926 (Miss. 2007).
- 6 Kan.—*In re A.A.*, 51 Kan. App. 2d 794, 354 P.3d 1205 (2015).
- Minn.—*Mertins v. Commissioner of Natural Resources*, 755 N.W.2d 329 (Minn. Ct. App. 2008).
- Miss.—*Knox v. State*, 75 So. 3d 1030 (Miss. 2011).
- Nev.—*Halverson v. Hardcastle*, 123 Nev. 245, 163 P.3d 428 (2007).
- Wis.—*In re Ambac Assur. Corp.*, 2012 WI 22, 339 Wis. 2d 48, 810 N.W.2d 450 (2012).
- All justiciable causes not otherwise vested**
- Ky.—*Commonwealth Finance and Administration Cabinet v. Wingate*, 460 S.W.3d 843 (Ky. 2015), as modified on other grounds, (May 14, 2015).
- 7 Ariz.—*State v. Payne*, 223 Ariz. 555, 225 P.3d 1131 (Ct. App. Div. 2 2009).
- Colo.—*Marks v. Gessler*, 2013 COA 115, 350 P.3d 883 (Colo. App. 2013), cert. granted, 2014 WL 2815824 (Colo. 2014).
- Or.—*Longstreet v. Liberty Northwest Ins. Corp.*, 238 Or. App. 396, 245 P.3d 656 (2010).
- 8 Ala.—*Auto Owners Ins., Inc. v. Blackmon Ins. Agency, Inc.*, 99 So. 3d 1193 (Ala. 2012).
- Ariz.—*M-11 Ltd. Partnership v. Gommard*, 235 Ariz. 166, 330 P.3d 356 (Ct. App. Div. 1 2014).
- Ohio—*State ex rel. Huntington Natl. Bank v. Kontos*, 145 Ohio St. 3d 102, 2015-Ohio-5190, 47 N.E.3d 133 (2015).
- Tenn.—*First Community Bank, N.A. v. First Tennessee Bank, N.A.*, 2015 WL 9025241 (Tenn. 2015).
- As to the jurisdiction and power of courts to determine their own jurisdiction, generally, see § 102.